

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Timothy Nugent, in recognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to Timothy Nugent, in recognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Timothy Nugent Con-  
5       gressional Gold Medal Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds that—

1           (1) Timothy Nugent is considered the “Father  
2           of Accessibility” and the “Godfather of Rehabilita-  
3           tion Education” on college campuses and has been  
4           a relentless innovator and advocate for disabled peo-  
5           ple in the United States;

6           (2) Nugent founded the first higher educational  
7           program for wounded and disabled soldiers in the  
8           world after World War II at the University of Illi-  
9           nois at Urbana-Champaign;

10          (3) under the leadership of Nugent, the Univer-  
11          sity of Illinois became a pioneer of architectural ac-  
12          cess, adding curb cuts and wheelchair-accessible bus  
13          routes that Nugent himself designed;

14          (4) when ramps were needed in the place of  
15          steps, Nugent built the first ramps in his garage;

16          (5) even today, many of the architectural acces-  
17          sibility standards and laws of the United States  
18          trace back directly to innovations created by Nugent;

19          (6) while at the University of Illinois, Nugent  
20          also oversaw the development of adaptive sports pro-  
21          grams accommodating athletes in wheelchairs;

22          (7) in the years after World War II, Nugent  
23          confronted the pervasive ableism of the general pub-  
24          lic in his efforts to bring students with disabilities  
25          into the mainstream of college campuses and society;

1           (8) sadly, many people believed that people in  
2           wheelchairs did not belong on college campuses,  
3           studying alongside students without limitations in  
4           mobility;

5           (9) many people in the medical community,  
6           whom Nugent proved wrong, believed that rehabilita-  
7           tion and sporting activities were harmful to individ-  
8           uals with such severe disabilities or that education  
9           was not necessary because of their belief that the  
10          lifespan of persons with spinal cord injuries would be  
11          too short for them to benefit from college degrees;

12          (10) Nugent fought back and secured the right  
13          to higher education and mainstream educational in-  
14          tegration for millions of people with disabilities in  
15          the United States; and

16          (11) Nugent would be the first person awarded  
17          a Congressional Gold Medal for work on behalf of  
18          persons with disabilities.

19   **SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

20          (a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of  
21          the House of Representatives and the President pro tem-  
22          pore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements  
23          for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold  
24          medal of appropriate design to Timothy Nugent, in rec-

1 ognition of his pioneering work on behalf of people with  
2 disabilities, including disabled veterans.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the  
4 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the  
5 Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-  
6 retary”) shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,  
7 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-  
8 retary.

9 **SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

10 The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in  
11 bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 3  
12 under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, at  
13 a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor,  
14 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses,  
15 and the cost of the gold medal.

16 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

17 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-  
18 als for the purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United  
19 States Code.